

# Review of Rules Most Misunderstood

# Update VS Remark Tickets

## Update Tickets

- Submitted three (3) working days before the current ticket expires
- Extends the time available to work by scheduling a new ticket to take over at the moment the existing ticket expires
- Markings should still be legible for duration of original ticket

# Update VS Remark Tickets

## Remark Tickets

- Submitted any time the markings become illegible due to time, weather, construction, or any other cause
- If the marks are no longer legible, then they are no longer valid for the purposes of excavation or demolition

# Code 97

## Response Code for Extraordinary Circumstances

- When should it be used?
- Extraordinary circumstances may include: floods, snow, ice storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, other natural disasters, blackouts, and massive computer network failures.

# Code 97

(§56-265.19.A)

## Response Code for Extraordinary Circumstances

- “...The operator shall notify directly the [excavator]...of the date and time when the location will be marked. The deferral to mark for extraordinary circumstances shall be no longer than 96 hours from 7:00 a.m. on the next working day following notice to the notification center, unless a longer time is otherwise agreed upon by the operator and excavator...”

# Code 97

(§56-265.19.A)

## Response Code for Extraordinary Circumstances

- The operator must notify the excavator of the date and time by which the location will be marked.
- The extension is equal to 48 hours past the original due date.
- The extension can be longer, if both the operator and the excavator agree to the longer time frame.

# 17A

(§56-265.17.A)

## Miss Utility Tickets

- “...no person, including operators, shall make or begin any excavation or demolition without first notifying the notification center for that area...”
- The person performing excavation or demolition must have a valid ticket.

# 17A

(§56-265.17.A)

- What constitutes a valid ticket?
  - Correct ticket type
  - Within time frame allowed by law
  - Working within the scope of the ticket
  - The person performing the work is the ticket holder
  - No clear evidence of an unmarked utility (faded marks, incorrect response codes, etc.)



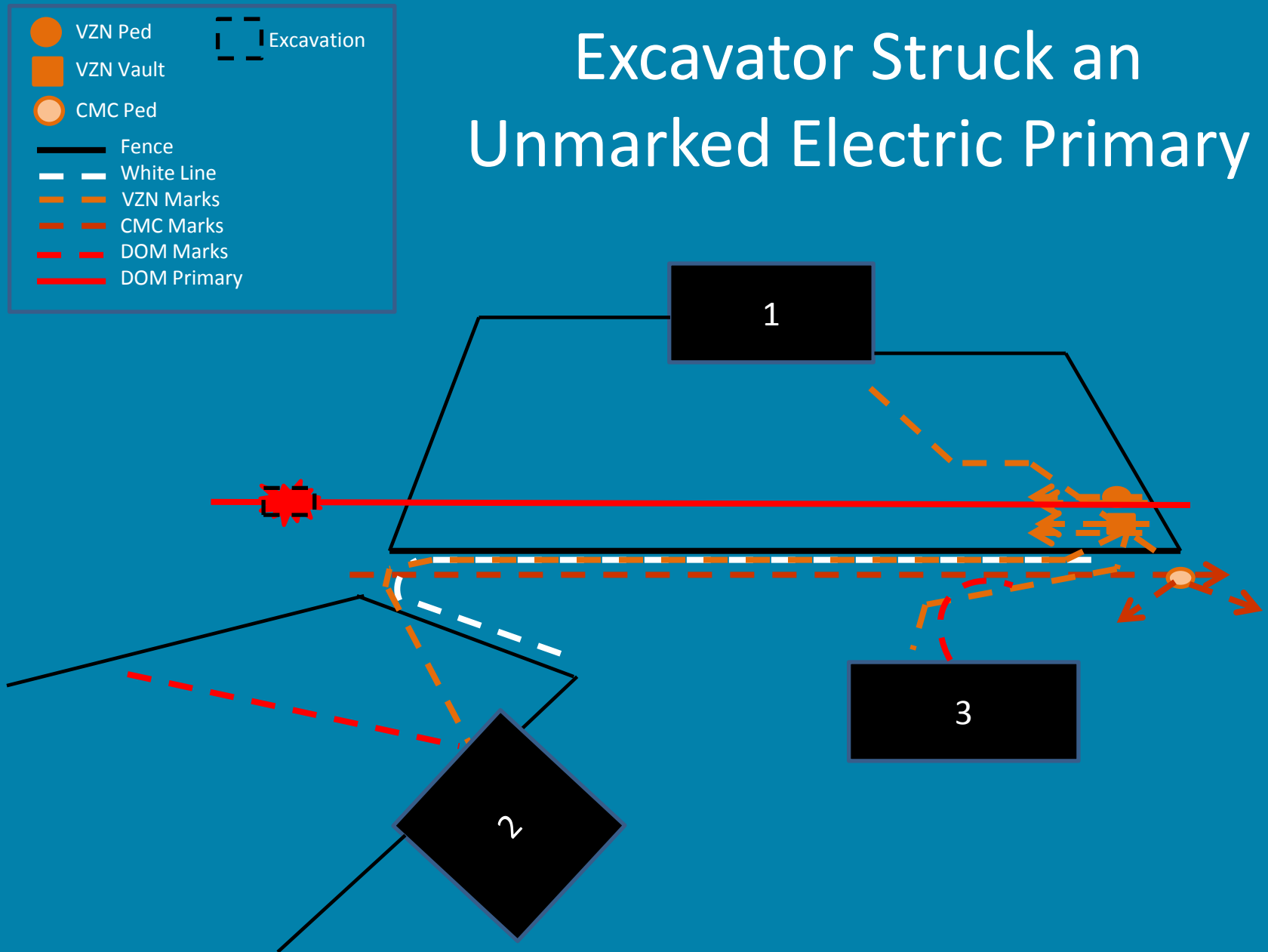
# 18

(§56-265.18 & 20VAC5-309-190)

## Ticket Scope & Specific Location

- With all of the available options, there is no excuse to not clearly describe the proposed excavation or demolition.
  - Physical White Lining
  - GPS Coordinates
  - Electronic White Lining (aerial imagery)
  - Reference Cross Streets and/or Driving Directions
  - Quadrant System

# Excavator Struck an Unmarked Electric Primary



# Emergency Excavation Rule

(20VAC5-309-90)

- Definition of Emergency – "Emergency means a sudden or unexpected occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services."
- An Emergency ticket can only be submitted for a valid emergency.

# Emergency Excavation Rule

(20VAC5-309-90)

- Dispatched repair crew determines need for immediate action.
- If immediate action is required, all reasonable precautions must still be taken.

# Emergency Excavation Rule

## (20VAC5-309-90)

- Reasonable precautions include:
  - Thorough site assessment to determine the location of underground utility lines;
  - Locate underground lines with acceptable equipment, if possible;
  - Hand dig around underground lines;
  - Directly notify the utility line operators, if necessary;
  - If prudent, the excavator shall wait for marking of the excavation area by operators having utility lines in the area.

# Emergency Excavation Rule

(20VAC5-309-90)





# Marking Emergencies

(§56-265.19.H)

- “An operator shall respond to an emergency notice as soon as possible but no later than three hours from the excavator's call to the notification center.”
- This means that an operator (or contract locator) must respond to an emergency ticket regardless of their opinion of the validity of that emergency.
- However, an invalid emergency ticket is a reportable probable violation, and will be pursued as such.

# 24A

(§56-265.24.A)

- “Any person excavating within two feet on either side of the staked or marked location of an operator’s underground utility line...shall take all reasonable steps necessary to properly protect, support and backfill underground utility lines...”
- The very first reasonable step is the task of, “...Exposing the underground utility line to its extremities by hand digging...”

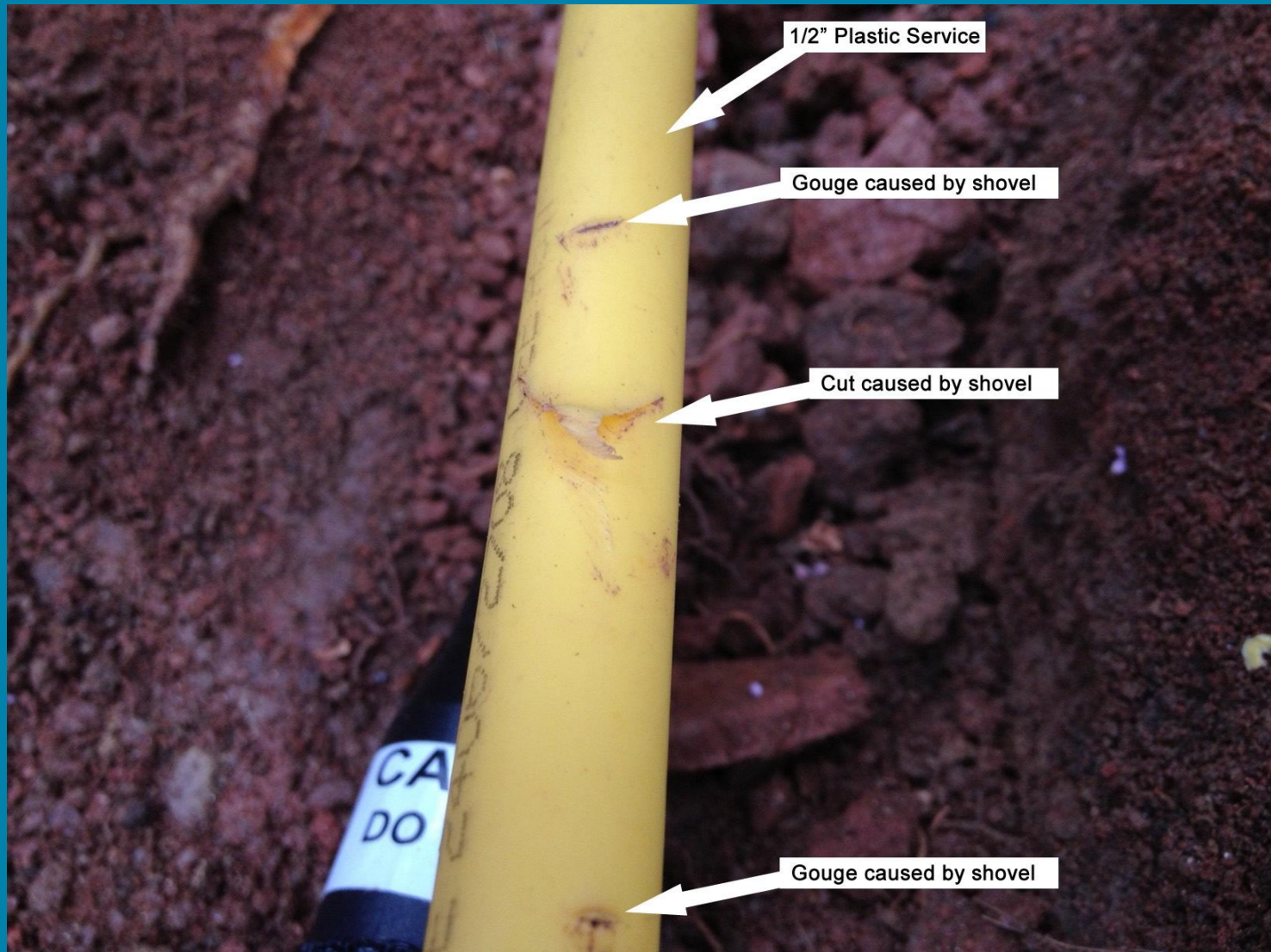


# Hand Digging Does Not Involve “Scratching” the Surface With a Bucket





# Perpendicular Shovel Damage





# Failure To Dig From Sides





# Damage by Pick



# Damage by Post Hole Digger



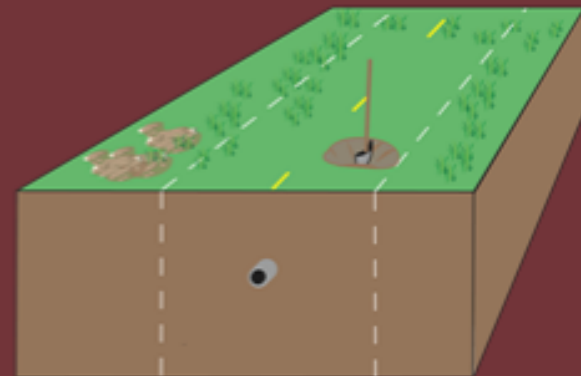
# Digging Using Reasonable Care

- Simply using hand tools does not constitute using hand digging best practices.
- What are some of the best practices?

# Digging Using Reasonable Care

## Best Practices

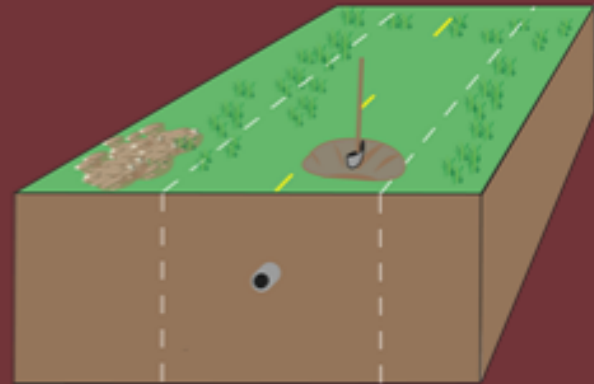
- Use soft digging whenever possible.
- Use only rounded/blunt edged tools when hand digging in the vicinity of utility lines. The use of axes, posthole diggers, picks, mattocks and pry/probing bars may result in damage.
- Carefully begin potholing an area to the side of the marked utility line. Keep the face of the shovel parallel with the utility line markings.



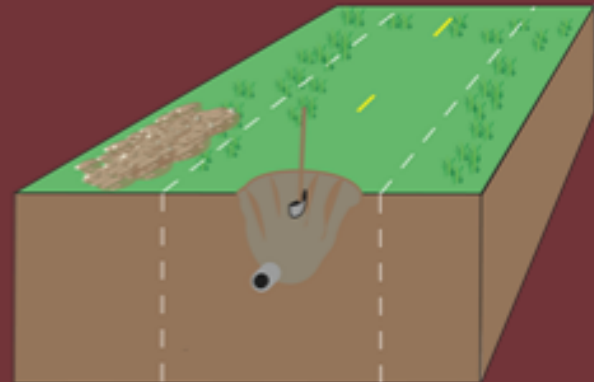


# Digging Using Reasonable Care

- Begin extending the pothole walls toward the utility line.



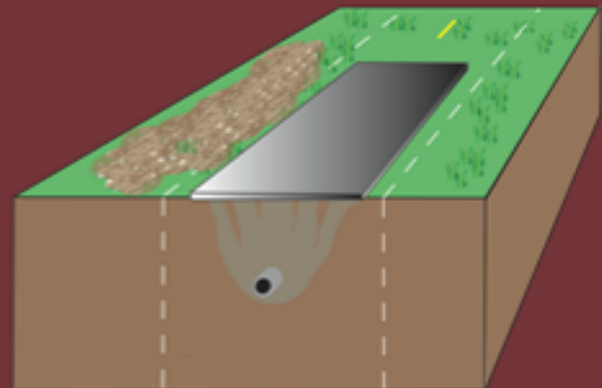
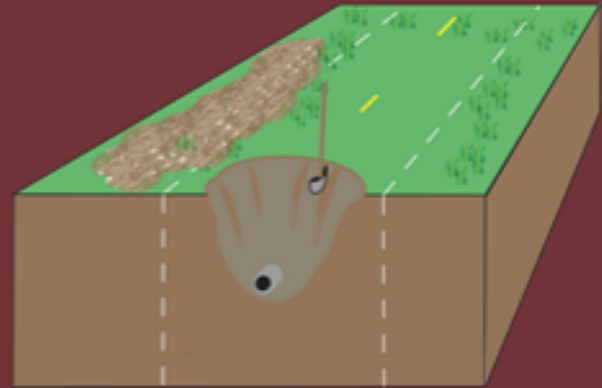
- Once the utility line is visible, keep the face of the shovel parallel with the utility line, and use all precautions to remove the soil from around the utility line.





# Digging Using Reasonable Care

- Fully expose the extremities of the utility line.
- Protect all exposed utility lines from damage that could result from falling debris, i.e. rocks, concrete, compacted soil etc. and from equipment and persons working in the vicinity of the exposed utility line.



# Excavator Site Inspection Rule

(20VAC5-309-180)

- “Prior to excavation, excavators shall verify they are at the correct location and shall verify locate markings and, to the best of their ability, check for unmarked utility lines.”
- If unmarked utility lines are identified, the excavator must submit a 3-Hour Notice.
- Submitting a ticket is the right start, but it is only a start.

# Failure to Wait After 3-Hour Notice (§56-265.17.C)

- If clear evidence is present, “...the excavator shall not begin excavating until three hours after an additional call is made to the notification center for the area...”
- Clear evidence of an unmarked utility requires both calling for a 3-Hour Notice as well as waiting.

# Failure to Wait After 3-Hour Notice (§56-265.17.C)



# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)

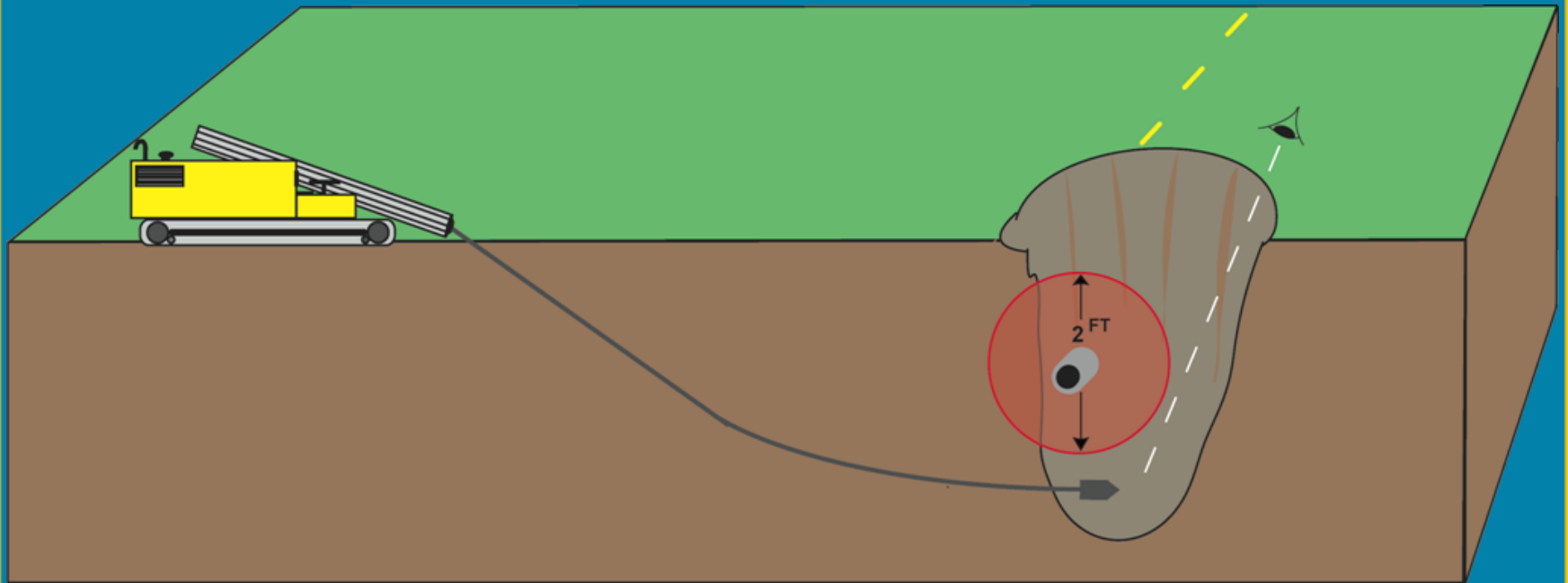
- Rule 150.6: “Unless prohibited...the excavator shall expose all utility lines which will be in the bore path by hand digging to establish the underground utility line's location prior to commencing bore.”
- Rule 150.4: “The excavator shall ensure sufficient clearance is maintained between the bore path and any underground utility lines during pullback.”

# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)

- Rule 150.8: “The excavator shall visually check the drill head as it passes through potholes, entrances, and exit pits.”
- Rule 150.9: “If the depth indicated by the locating device is lower than the bottom of the pothole or pit, the excavator shall cease boring until the hole/pit can be hand excavated further to maintain a visual inspection of the drill head.”

# Trenchless Excavation





# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)





# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)





# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)



# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)





# Trenchless Excavation (20VAC5-309-150)





# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)



# Trenchless Excavation

(20VAC5-309-150)

- All marked utilities in the bore path must be exposed.
- The drill head must be observed as it passes all utilities during the initial shot and during pullback.
- Sufficient clearance must be maintained when crossing any utility.



# Trenchless Excavation

